

The Sun

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Our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication will be glad to have rejected articles returned. We must call cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Mild, the Inexpensive He.

In how far, if indeed at all, was Mr. ROOSEVELT a conscious contributor to the forces that precipitated his nomination to Denver? Was he a passive and resistant beneficiary, or was there complicity before the fact? He has of course arrived at the age of political consent, but his ante-convention dalliance at the White House purely platonic?

People have yet any idea of the deep and burning significance that transforms these simple questions. They seem idle, like the vain imagining of a rain askew; affable and inconsiderable as a third rail. But their elusiveness presently vanishes and they will disclose a voltage beyond all belief or admiration!

Elihu Root and the Senate.

At the behest of Mr. ROOSEVELT, who in such matters is most meticulous, we have fallen into the error of ascribing to him an intention to dictate the election of Mr. ELIHU ROOT as United States Senator in succession to THOMAS COLLIER PLATT, deceased—more or less agreeable as this error may have been.

Mr. ROOSEVELT, we must hasten to correct it and to exhibit a becoming disclaimer of his collusion in such a matter. In spite, therefore, of the sedulously cultivated appearance of personal independence presented by Mr. ROOSEVELT, we have become aware that he stands for nothing in the present movement to make Mr. Root the New York Senator. We withdraw, therefore, the imputation which Mr. ROOSEVELT had been careful to provoke, and we gratefully record the fact that Mr. Root's accepted candidacy is relieved of its sole detrimental aspect. Mr. ROOSEVELT's warm approval of the selection of Mr. Root for the Senate is negligible, but unavoidable.

The State is to be warmly congratulated upon the prospect of being represented in the Senate by such a man as Mr. ROOT. The level of degradation inaugurated by Mr. D. B. HILL, the able gentleman who so signally contributed to the late defeat of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, has been steadily maintained up to its culmination in Mr. DEWEY. That statesman announces that the fitting and proper successor to his colleague Mr. PLATT is Mr. TIM WOODRUFF. There is a curious quality of justice in this attitude of Mr. DEWEY's. If Mr. PLATT cannot succeed himself and Mr. DEWEY must lag, it cannot be denied that Mr. WOODRUFF would in nowise impair the existing harmony that marks the State's representation.

Moreover, Mr. DEWEY's physical superiority to his colleague would cease to be a glaring, by which belief we would not be thought to imply that Mr. PLATT is not the better man. He is. His advantages over his junior colleague are deplorable.

Mr. WOODRUFF's candidacy makes some newspaper noise, but we prefer to regard it as fictitious. We take this view of it for the reason that it is not conceivable that Mr. WOODRUFF should entertain any serious belief that it is possible that he should be Senator. Washington despatches set forth that Mr. WOODRUFF is understood to express willingness to abate his alleged pretensions in return for the promise of a seat in the Cabinet. We do not believe it. It too grossly impugns the gentleman's sense of humor.

However, sufficient for the day is its achievement, and the assurance that Mr. ELIHU ROOT is going to the Senate cannot but rejoice the heart of every honest and intelligent man in the State of New York.

The Turkish Situation in the East. The Turkish Parliament—the first since 1876—is to meet three weeks hence, and it is obviously of much importance that an agreement for a conference shall have been reached before the delicate questions now pending in southeastern Europe become subjects of discussion by inexperienced legislators. The situation in the Balkan region is nevertheless still uncertain, owing partly to the difficulty experienced by Turkey in coming to terms with Bulgaria and partly to Austria's stubborn refusal to enter a conference unless it is understood beforehand that her arbitrary

annexation of Bosnia is to be accepted as an accomplished fact.

Within the last day or two, however, several incidents have occurred which seem likely to remove some obstacles to an improved state of things. A serious impediment to the restoration of friendly relations between Turkey and Bulgaria has been the wide difference between the sum offered and the sum demanded as indemnity for the seizure of the Oriental Railway and for the annual tribute of \$500,000 lately payable to the Porte by the Sofia Government for Eastern Rumelia. The Bulgarians at first proposed to pay nothing whatever and indulged in a good deal of loud talk about their willingness to buy independence with their blood but not with money. The pressure presently applied by Russia and other great Powers led them to adopt a more sensible course, and after some haggling they offered to liquidate both of Turkey's claims by the payment of about \$14,000,000. The proposal was repudiated at Constantinople, and the damage inflicted by the seizure of the Oriental Railway was itself computed at some \$28,000,000. A protest against this exaction was naturally made by Bulgaria, which is a poor country and unable to raise a large income by taxation. What looked like a deadlock, however, was broken on November 18 by the announcement of the British, French and Russian Governments that they would jointly guarantee a Bulgarian loan which should be devoted exclusively to providing the indemnity that had been agreed upon as due to Turkey. Under the circumstances it should not be difficult for such an agreement to be concluded.

Another fact of good augury is the friendly reference to Serbia in the Porte's final programme for the proposed Balkan conference, which has been submitted to the participants in the Berlin congress. After suggesting that the principal points of discussion should be, first, the present legal status of Bulgaria and Eastern Rumelia, together with the disposition to be made of their former tributaries and shares of Turkey's public debt, and secondly, the present legal status of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, concerning which, by the way, no demand for an indemnity is made, the programme goes on to say that with a view of securing general tranquillity it might be well that Serbia and Montenegro should get some equivalent for Austria's annexation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, though the compensation must not be made at Turkey's expense. The last named suggestion will be received with more satisfaction at Belgrade than at Vienna, for it plainly points to a cession by Austria of a strip of territory on the southern border of Bosnia which would make Serbia and Montenegro continuous and operate as a bar to Austria's further advance southward.

Another feature of the Porte's programme is the expression of a wish that to Turkey, which has become a constitutional State, should be granted the full international rights which have been conceded to Japan. Japan imposes such import duties upon foreign merchandise as she sees fit; if a foreigner there commits an offence he is tried by a Japanese tribunal, and if he desires to send a letter he must have recourse to the native post office. It is quite otherwise at present in Turkey. She cannot even decide what import duties she will levy, being bound by treaty not to impose customs duties exceeding a certain amount; if a foreigner commits a transgression of law in her territory he is tried not before a Turkish judge but in the court of his own Consul; finally, he may confide his letters to a post office conducted by appointees of his own Government.

Of course, no high spirited nation can be expected long to put up with such galling interference, and it is probable enough that the conference will hearken to the protests of Reformed Turkey on this score.

The Brooklyn Grand Jury and the Police.

The chief function of a Grand Jury is to inquire into charges of crime, and in each particular case the Grand Jurors are to decide whether the evidence submitted to them in support of a criminal accusation is sufficiently strong to warrant them in sending it before a trial jury for determination. If they decide that the evidence is sufficient they find an indictment. If they decide that it is not they refuse to indict, or, as the old legal phraseology has it, they "ignore the bill" and the accused person goes free.

Although a very different idea seems to prevail in the community, the Grand Jury is not vested with any administrative powers whatever. Its members possess no authority under the law to act as general supervisors of the public morals. Because they think that the county might be more wisely governed, their views to that effect are of no more consequence in an official sense than those of any other reputable and intelligent body of citizens. In short, Grand Jurors have no right whatsoever to represent the public except in the discharge of their duties as investigators of criminal charges against alleged violators of the law.

Such being the extent of their jurisdiction, it would be interesting to know on what theory the Grand Jurors of Kings county are proceeding in their inquiry into the changes recently made by Commissioner BINGHAM in the Police Department in Brooklyn. We are told that the Grand Jury does not like a policy which threatens to "wipe Brooklyn off the police map," or in other words provide for the control of the police in that borough directly from headquarters in Manhattan. But suppose that the threatened change is objectionable; what have the Grand Jurors to do with it? They are not charged with any responsibility in regard to the administration of the police force. They might just as appropriately investigate the administration of any other public department and tell the people what they think about it in a presentment to the court.

The truth is that proceedings of this

kind, outside the true field of a Grand Jury's duties, are usually set on foot by a District Attorney who seeks thereby to gain public applause, or by a Grand Juror or set of Grand Jurors desirous of magnifying the importance of their office. We are unwilling to believe that Mr. JOHN F. CLARKE, the present District Attorney of Kings county, would sanction such an interference with the administrative functions of the police department in Brooklyn as seems to have been attempted by the Grand Jury over there; so we are forced to the conclusion that it must have its origin elsewhere.

Wherever inspired, it is a silly assertion and assumption of authority that does not belong to the Grand Jury.

The Consumer and Tariff Revision.

The suggestion that the consumer appear before the Ways and Means Committee to urge revision has incensed Mr. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS and provoked from him an outburst of candor that will seem positively brutal to interests whose only concern is a "reasonable profit" on their products.

When Mr. ADAMS says that he is a tariff thief licensed to steal by the Dingley law he does not intend to reflect upon any man's honesty, but throws a searchlight upon "reasonable profit" as a perverted principle. No man in America will think the cap fits him when Mr. ADAMS refers to hogs that squeal and jostle at the protection trough. Revisers upward may be offended, but such insults never will abate their ardor for scientific schemes.

Mr. ADAMS, speaking for the consumer, declares that they "cannot afford either the time or more frequently the money to go to Washington to ask to be heard before a committee, which they know in advance is both prejudiced and packed against them." What! Is not the committee willing to hear the consumer? In truth, it would like to have the presumptuous fellow on the stand. He would be made to prove that he knew what he was talking about, if he could.

Manufacturers comprehend the tariff, legislators know their duty, but what part has the consumer in their work of maintaining the prosperous conditions which he enjoys? The consumer ought to understand that of all the beneficiaries of the Dingley law he is the greatest and should be the most thankful, for does it not provide employment for him at high wages; and how could he better show his appreciation than by paying home market prices for all that he eats, drinks, wears, uses and possesses? Is the consumer competent to answer the argument when he stands before kings of industry and high priests of protection that we must all enjoy prosperity together—if any man does not get his share of it, who is to blame but himself?

The consumer only pays prices. The manufacturer risks his money to give the consumer employment or to supply him with necessities and put luxuries within his reach. Manifestly the consumer is greatly daring when he appears before the Ways and Means Committee to maintain that revising the tariff is any of his business. He will get no sympathy and will be listened to impatiently. The consumer is not regarded as a business man, and therefore if heard he must be brief. It is for him to consume; his interests will be looked after by those who are satisfied with a "reasonable profit," also by the responsible majority in Congress.

Muskra in Two Styles.

If a stitch in time saves nine, or words to that effect, a gentle hint in season ought to be valuable to the luxurious section of the general public. Winter is coming on with giant strides, represented by furies of snow, untimely hailstorms and capricious "freezes" that inspire us to careful examination of overcoats, flues and the paraphernalia of domestic heating. Similarly, we shall soon be sitting down to opulent preparations of "terrarin" in which the soul of the epicure delights and for which, in his favorite restaurant or to a valued caterer who serves him at his residence, he pays anywhere from \$1.50 to \$4 a "portion."

This delectable mess is served in two forms, "à la Maryland" and "Philadelphia style," and by the standard of their remoteness from the source of supply and their lack of familiarity with the usages of "the fathers" the consumers make their choice. "Philadelphia style" means a mysterious but very savory dish, drowned in a pleasant yellowish gray sauce, the components of which one has to take on trust, stimulated of course by the delicate flavor and the reassuring effects upon the palate. "Maryland style" means a much darker and apparently much more candid preparation. No veil of gravity, however tasteful, is drawn over it. You see the rich meat, the abundant eggs, the cunning little livers, and are conscious of a seductive bouquet which passes for the animal itself, but, in nine cases out of ten, is really sherry. Both dishes are good, especially to those who know better. They are to be recommended without hesitation. As we say, the winter is coming on and very soon a terrarin "à la Maryland" or terrarin "Philadelphia style" will be at the disposal of those adventurous persons who "have the price."

What we wish to say is that the muskrat is really a very toothsome and a wonderfully cleanly beast. It is called a "rat" and is in fact a member of the rodent tribe, but actually it is one of the most desirable food products we have. About the size of a half grown cat, with a bushy tail and a face somewhat like that of a coon, it inhabits marshy places in the neighborhood of watercourses, lives on oysters and other shell fish, is fond of grain in case of need, and washes everything it eats or puts away for winter use. It builds little two storied houses in low lying places, stocks them with congenial provisions and takes its winters comfortably. Its name is repulsive. Its habits are most commendable. Its flesh is excellent in every way,

toothsome and delicate to a degree, and on the eastern shore of Maryland the hunters have great Homeric feasts of muskrat stewed and muskrat broiled, and fill the night with wassail and ungodly glee while they sell their terrapins and canvasbacks to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington by way of revenue. It has occurred to us, therefore, to suggest that should any innocent consumer in the gilded capitals hereinbefore mentioned happen to hear that his high priced terrapin, as served by caterers and restaurateurs, is composed largely of muskrat, with chicken livers, bob veal and sherry to make an odorous and titillating confection, he need not be alarmed at all. This is a worthy and a meritorious food and will hurt no one of those who pay for and assimilate it.

The facts may leak out. We quite expect it. For many years past the muskrat has been entering into our systems and no harm done. We do not deny that it ought to be cheaper considering the abundance of the available supply, but there is magic in the legend "terrarin," the dish is admirable, so why not pay for it? Superstitions are always expensive.

It was to be expected that the President, having prescribed condition tests for army officers, would not neglect the navy; but it is not surprising that he has ordered naval officers to walk and not to swim? Surely they will have to swim vigorously when their ships are mined or torpedoed.

On February 1, 1907, the Penny Provident, the money savings institution that comes closest to the poorest persons, had 301 stations and \$5,578 depositors, with \$32,022.91 to their credit on its books. The ninety-one cents is significant, for the virtue is designed to afford opportunity to lay aside money to those whose surplus is only a cent or two and to whom putting by even a cent is a matter of importance. Many children are patrons of this institution.

Naturally the hard times have been reflected in the fund, and on October 1 the number of depositors was only 38,816, the aggregate amount of their savings being \$27,749.76. On February 1, 1907, 61,111 persons were using the fund.

In the days of no work the necessities of the family frequently required the withdrawal of the savings of the children. In this way 41 per cent. of the sum deposited a year and a half ago was taken out. The depositors felt the pang of a year ago, and recovery from its effects is slow for them.

The National Prosperity Association has adjourned sine die. Providence Tribune.

But the W. J. Bryan Prosperity Association remains in permanent session and expects to report again in 1912.

Exclusive of submarines the Japanese fleet of 110 ships passed in review before the Mikado at Kobe on Wednesday. It is to be hoped that the incident will not tempt Captain Hosono to sound the alarm, or excite apprehension of a naval programme by Japan with which the United States cannot compete.

Japan is not rushing Dreadnoughts to completion under cover of night, and her naval establishment is unquestionably inferior to that of the United States. The 110 war vessels reviewed by the Mikado from the deck of the armored cruiser Asama, with the veteran Togo by his side, included many ships already obsolete, judged by the latest building standard. Some of the great vessels were Russian battleships and cruisers sunk or taken in the war, and others dated back to the conflict with China.

Japan, it is true, has added several Dreadnoughts to her navy, three of which are in commission, and the naval programme calls for others and for five 18,000 ton armored cruisers with a speed of twenty-five knots, but it does not contemplate superiority to the navy of the United States, or even equality with it.

A comparative table gives the United States 130 warships of 600 tons and over, "active and building," to 48 for Japan, and the following batteries: United States, 172 12 inch guns, to 66 for Japan; United States, 224 8 to 12 inch guns, to 126 for Japan; United States 728 3 to 8 inch guns, to 428 for Japan.

TOWBOAT TO OPEN CHANNEL.

Method of Coping With Sand Bars on the Brina River.

From the Boston Transcript.
 On the Brina, a stream of the Denubian system, originated one of the most interesting customs of the Austrian tribes, that of carrying their own "ready repair" appliances with them for opening the channel. Towboats in that stream were so often caught behind shifting bars that some ingenious captain bethought himself of carrying at his bow a big harrow, on a chain, with which to encourage a channel deepening. One sees them and of the great harrow there is a small sketch. Out on the bowprit, instead of the usual anchor ready to be tripped at the first sign of trouble, hangs a great iron rake or harrow, with a massive frame and with spikes or teeth of iron and made of heavy iron bar sharpened at the point.

When the towboat, advancing up stream—and sometimes, also, coming down—finds itself stuck in the bar, the harrow is lowered by means of a derrick or a crane, and the towboat backs up at full power and drags the harrow through the bar.

Any towboat that has the harrow which a swift river follows up such a stirring and erodes its own bottom will appreciate the result of the scheme. In a short time the channel is cut through to the necessary depth, the rake is hoisted in, the towboat is lowered and the towboat proceeds on a sufficient way. It is really not very different from the Wells scraper with which the Mississippi was opened to St. Paul about 1870.

The Astrologer of Aeronaetics.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The reason that we have for the past fifty years been attempting to make the air a servant is very plain. To have that fortune enough to have some knowledge of aerology, which is the science of the stars pertaining to human life. For fifty years past the earth has been in the sign of Aquarius, and the water bearer, pouring out libations on all mankind. The earth will be in the sign of Aquarius for the next 2,200 years to come. Therefore the earth better in the air sign our great inventions of to-day are those of the air, such as the wireless telegraph, wireless transmission of electrical power, liquid air, compressed air and the albatross.

Fifty years ago the earth was in the sign of Pisces, which is a water sign; then we had the great inventions of the water, such as the steamboat, steam engine, etc.

The great inventions for the next 2,200 years will be the harnessing of the air in every conceivable form and for every purpose.

WHEELER MALLORY.

NEW YORK, November 18.

Reports From Gangawamp.

The melancholy days are here. They couldn't be much more. The crop fell off the year. And cider's awful scarce.

Joe Cook.

IN TWO MUSEUMS.

At the Metropolitan Museum the most absorbing matters of interest at the present time are the forthcoming exhibition of modern German art and the opening of the newly completed wing at the north of the main Fifth avenue entrance. The entire floor, consisting of seven galleries, will be occupied by the German canvases. Assistant Director Edward Robinson, who recently went to Germany for the purpose of making final arrangements for this show, reports satisfactory progress.

The late Martha T. Fiske Colcord, wife of George Whitfield Colcord (a fellow of the museum for life) has willed the institution fifteen paintings. They now hang in the Room of Recent Acquisitions. These pictures are by the following artists: Gerson, "An Apothecary's Shop"; Edict of William the Tenth, by George H. Boughton; "Figure of a Boy," and "Figure of a Girl," both by William Morris Hunt; "Drummer," by Alphonse de Neuville; landscape by Daubigny, "Figure on Horseback," by Detaille; "Mandolin Player," by Meissonier; "Maid in Room," by Munakacy; "A Difficult Question," by Ignaz Gauguin; "Despatch Bearer," by Boldini; "Constantinople," by Pascin; "Portrait of a Man," by Francois Domingue; "Moors on Horseback," by Fortuny, and "Figures in a Mosque," by Gerome.

It will be observed that this small but by no means negligible collection represents a vanished era of pictorial taste. We admire the brilliancy, the precision—in a photographic sense—and the minute delicacy of this art, but we no longer prize its merits. It is definitely ranged, and when a man remarks, "Meissonier was the greatest painter of the nineteenth century," you answer, "Was he?" and go to the Renoir show. Nevertheless there are some very engaging examples in the new bequests of Mrs. Colcord. The Boughton is full of humor and is a great favorite. Mr. Gauguin rivals Meissonier in his handling, though his little eighteenth century study, a bit of virtuosity, is "looser" than anything the Frenchman painted; the texture of the coats is admirably indicated. The Munakacy would look as well in one of Braun's carvings, even better, for then we should escape the optical exasperation produced by the Hungarian's gritty and bituminous surfaces. Fancy with what brio and elegance of touch Alfred Stevens would have treated this subject, a "Music Room." The Daubigny is green, metallic and unlike the master.

William Morris Hunt's studies are unpretentious. But over the best of his work we never could pump up any admiration. Detaille, De Neuville, Meissonier, Gerome are of the usual sort; figures elaborately painted, seemingly pasted on enamelled backgrounds; wealth of unimportant details thrust on the same plane. The Boldini is commonplace. Pascin is sparkling. That tiny vibrating water color of Fortuyn's is, artistically speaking, worth the rest combined. Fortuyn was a genius who unfortunately died too soon, died before he had quite broken away from the jeweled materialism of the Parisian school. For the "Mandolin Player," by Meissonier, Alwyn Schroeder, the former violinist of the Koebe Quartet, has painted. We don't know whether Mr. Schroeder plays the cunning mandolin (wooden of Welsh rabbit soul), but we do assert that his face may be seen in the Meissonier picture. Gerome's "Mosque" looks as if it had been baked; its surface is that of a ceramic; very true in reproducing the decorative quality of Eastern architecture, but as airless, as lifeless as a photograph. However, it is not good policy or politeness to look a gift collection in the mouth or frame; the gift is welcome.

In the middle of the room is Rodin's "Hand of God." A huge hand carefully holding two figures, the first man and woman, who are tangled in an ungraceful marble embrace. This fragment was well known a few years ago to admirers of Rodin who have visited his atelier in Paris. It is a gift to the museum by Mr. Edward R. Adams and exhibits some of the sculptor's happiest characteristics—fluency in modeling, strength in conception. The hand is a trifle, as is his suggestion of potential power, the roughly blocked figures of Adam and Eve reveal a sense of mystery, the mystery of the embryonic. From the index finger of the Almighty by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel Adam leaps into conscious, vivid life. Rodin's God has something of the half musing, half indifferent attitude of Brahma, before whose impassive presence unravels the panorama of worlds in travail. A striking creation, this of Rodin's.

Among the recent gifts of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, and twelve Chinese quips made of rhinoceros horn, eighteenth century. Mr. Kenyon Cox has given the copy of a silver plaque which was presented to the participants in the masque at Cornish, N. H., by the late Augustus Saint Gaudens. There is a portrait of Capt. Walsh of the Revolutionary navy, by John Nagle, a gift of Mr. Frederick S. Wait, and two bronze statues of the school of Michelangelo and one bronze statue of the Paduan school. Alfred Chouteau, that very bold and brilliant "Portrait of a Lady" by John S. Sargent is in the adjacent gallery to Gallery 24 and is lent by Mr. Thomas L. Manson. In treatment it recalls Manet, though not at his most aggressive. Months might be spent inspecting the collection of the 984 specimens of laces and embroideries, the gift of Mrs. Magdalena Nuttall. When color or form becomes too insistent or monotonous in paint and sculpture these lace masterpieces are a relief to the eye. Their aerial patterns, spun as if by some spiritual spider, carry the mind gently through the most intricate arabesques. The Mohammedans call this contemplative ecstasy Esh, and superinduce the mood by staring at arabesques. You may evoke a more amiable version of this sensation while dreaming over the white visions of these extraordinary laces.

In the print room of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts Curator Emil Rieder is holding an exhibition of engraved landscapes from the fifteenth to the nineteenth century. Masterpieces by Mantegna, Lucas van Leyden, Marc Antonio, Raimondo, Salvador Rosa, Castiglione, Tiepolo, four luminous plates—Antonio Canale, Schwanvelder, Waterloo, Ostade, Berchem, both Claude Lorraine, Bolswert, after Rubens; Rembrandt's "Three Trees" and "Goldweaver's Field," and Woollett's "Rape of Anyone" with its clearly defined landscape may be seen in another example in the Dürer exhibition at Kappeler's. The "Traveler" by J. Ruysdael is a very interesting plate.

Among the new acquisitions of the Boston Museum is a picture painted in London, 1818, by Allston entitled "Uriel in the Sun," an eclectic composition suggesting many painters from Michelangelo to Vanart. The work was well liked at the time of its appearance.

that the directors of the British Institution gave the artist £150 as a token of their appreciation. Then the Marquis of Stafford bought the canvas, and recently it came into the possession of the Allston trust fund. Whistler's masquerade "Eugene Delacroix" by Mr. Canfield, is well hung, and to it pilgrimages are made. There is a copy by Manet of Brouwer's "Smoker," which is to-day in better condition than the original.

Boston's Big Three in the paint world, Joseph De Camp, Edmund Tarbell and Frank Benson, are benevolently active this season. At the new Copley Gallery some of Tarbell's latest work is on view, also a portrait by Frank Benson of Edward F. Greene's little boy, a capital picture; while Bela Pratt's sculptured work is much admired. The "Cellist," by De Camp, which was shown in Philadelphia and New York, is in the same gallery. Walter Griffin is exhibiting his interesting landscapes, some thirty in all, at the St. Botolph Club, and that haven of peace, that prime æsthetic life saving station, is crowded with visitors.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

Reflections of One Who Has Hoped for It Party Years.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The discussion of equal suffrage seems to me like the flying to and fro of an empty shuttle in the loom of events. The timeworn objections made by men have no logical weight, the appeals from women are largely without convincing power upon men. Men decline to grant suffrage to women because they prefer to retain the advantage now held by virtue of their masculinity; many women earnestly and honestly desire to exercise what seems to be an inherent right of citizenship, and many other women are either opposed to it or indifferent.

My view is that the most sensible plan would be simply to remove the disqualification of sex and allow the matter to adjust itself. No shrinking woman would be dragged to the polls or have office thrust upon her any more than such violence is now perpetuated upon men. Women desiring to vote could do so peacefully, and there you are. That ought to satisfy all concerned.

For more than forty years I have watched the equal suffrage movement without participation in it, always wishing for its success as a cause obviously just, but with little hope. If my memory is correct the right of suffrage was first granted to women without first insisting on a universal demand for it from them, but for reasons supposed to be partisan. This talk of waiting until women all clamor for suffrage before granting it is the weakest sort of argument sufficient to make any man for it in an uncertain term, and the real reason for denying it is the selfishness of man, one of the barbaric instincts not yet eliminated from his nature. ELDERLY WOMAN.

BROOKLYN, November 19.

THE LABOR DINNER.

Wisdom From the Point on Tap, but the Guests Not in Fluent Mood.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Had the labor dinner at the White House, which was attended by so many of our country's leading men, been a social function there would be neither good taste nor good sense in discussing it; but when, through the host's guidance, it assumed the features of a political symposium and was proclaimed the dinner of the laborer, it became a proper subject for analysis.

That the demand of labor unions as expressed in the Democratic platform and amplified by Mr. Gompers in his fiery speech was one of the predominant issues of the campaign will be generally admitted. That the people of the country by ballot repudiated the cautious asseverations of the Democratic candidate and those of the more belligerent Gompers on this point is a matter of recent occurrence that it will not be denied.

The belief in the integrity and efficiency of the Supreme Court of the United States exists to-day, Mr. Gompers to the contrary notwithstanding. Labor rights and privileges are as great as those of the rest of the citizens of the United States but no greater is founded on the law and the popular will.

Then why should there be this confrontation of intellect and the spirit of the most winning, forceful mind extant? The reports of the dinner indicate that the two justices of the Supreme Court present took no part in the discussion, either as attentive listeners. What was expected of them? Legal advice or opinions as to the propriety of a matter of public concern? It was the duty to have the court representatives hear argument, who were not the speakers, and to give their opinion on the matter, and also listened. There was something said, in a small way, of course, by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, but not enough to illuminate the occasion.

It was evident that the dinner was a social, with comforting viands and mellowing waters, and the opportunity to fill to the brim the social cup from the fountain. Nothing more. H. B. WASHINGTON, November 18.

Two.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: There is no means of escape from this political nightmare for the next four years? Could he not be induced to go with President Roosevelt through darkest Africa and stay there, planting the seeds of sophistry among the emotional tribes? Is there no surprising showman out there who would turn South Africa with the pair of them until they had talked each other into a state of utter collapse? TIERED DEMOCRAT.

NEW YORK, November 18.

A Wondrous Change.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: There is a rumor here that Mr. Taft is going to select a lawyer for Attorney-General. Is this so? WASHINGTON, D. C., November 18.

The Boston and Maine and New Haven Merger Case.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: During the argument in the suit instituted by the United States Government against the merger of the Boston and Maine with the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad in the United States Circuit Court at Boston on Tuesday one of the attorneys representing the Government is reported in THE SUN to have said that in his opinion the "Government" provided a majority decision was rendered in favor of the defendant, could bring the case before the Supreme Court upon certification, as was done in the case where two judges instead of three sat on it.

The act of February 11, 1903, pronounces upon the composition of the court in such actions as follows:

"Before not less than three of the Circuit Judges of said circuit, if there be three or more, and if there be not more than two Circuit Judges then before them and such District Judge as they may select."

It would seem that the intention of this act was not to have such cases tried before less than three judges, unless the use of the word "may" permits the two Circuit Judges to select a District Judge if they wish. But this I think would be a strained construction of the act. It would therefore seem that if one of these cases were tried before two Circuit Judges the case would be without jurisdiction. JAMES D. DAWSON, JR.

NEW YORK, November 18.

George III. and William's Third Licking.

A SWISS EXPERIMENT.

Berne Has a Bureau for Insurance Against Unemployment.

From the Nineteenth Century.
 In April, 1891, there was opened in Berne the first municipal bureau for insurance against unemployment the world had ever seen. The bureau was organized on its ordinary lines; any Swiss subject might insure in it, but no one need insure unless he chose. Those who did insure were required to pay 40 centimes—a fraction less than a month's earnings into the bureau fund, and in return they secured the right to an allowance of a franc if alone standing, or a franc and a half if with others dependent on them, for every day up to sixty days they were out of work in winter through no fault of their own. Employers were not required to contribute to the fund, but it was hoped that they would do so voluntarily.

During the first year 494 men insured in it, but 50 of them were struck off the list as being unable to pay the premium regularly. Of the remaining 334, 216 were out of work in the winter and applied for help. Work was found for 50 of them, and the 186 others received allowances. These allowances amounted to only 228 francs in all. The fund amounted to only 1